

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAJ-01 CAB-09 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-11 FAA-00

LAB-06 SIL-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /136 W
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R 041040Z MAY 74

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3328

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 0759

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, PGOV, GW, WB, TU

SUBJECT: TURKISH WORKER FLIGHTS TO BERLIN

1. TURKISH AIRLINES (THY) MANAGEMENT WAS QUOTED IN LOCAL PRESS MAY 3 AS THREATENING ALLIED CHARTER CARRIERS WITH CANCELLATION BY TURKISH GOVERNMENT OF LANDING RIGHTS FOR TEGEL-ISTANBUL TURKISH WORKER FLIGHTS IF CARRIERS DO NOT REINSTATE PAYMENTS TO THY OF DM 58 "ROYALTY" PER SEAT ON TURKISH FLIGHTS. ALLIED CARRIERS HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING FOR SOME TIME TO NEGOTIATE REDUCTION OR ELIMINATION OF ROYALTY IN VIEW OF CHANGED SITUATION SINCE CONTRACT ORIGINALLY SIGNED, I.E., DIRECT COMPETITION NOW OFFERED BY THY ITSELF WITH SCHOENEFELD-ISTANBUL FLIGHTS. MAT INFORMS US THAT MOST RECENT PROPOSAL BY ALLIED CARRIERS HAS BEEN ADOPTION OF CONTRACT PROVISION LIKE THAT IN EFFECT BETWEEN THY AND FRG CARRIERS WHEREBY LATTER PAY ROYALTY OF DM 18 PER PASSENGER IN EXCESS OF 50 PERCENT OF TOTAL CARRIED BY ALL PARTIES TO CONTRACT. MAT REPORTS THAT THY DIRECTOR GENERAL TOLD CARRIERS THAT
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DM 58 ROYALTY NEED NOT BE PAID PENDING SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE

AND THAT PAYMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN MADE BY THREE ALLIED CARRIERS SINCE MARCH 1. HOWEVER, MAT INFORMED THAT THY MANAGEMENT IS BEING REPLACED AS OF BEGINNING OF MAY, AND OLD MANAGEMENT IS APPARENTLY ATTEMPTING TAKE HARDER LINE ON ROYALTY QUESTION BEFORE ITS DEPARTURE.

2. OFFICIALS FROM BOTH TURKISH TRANSPORT AND FINANCE MINISTRIES HAVE GIVEN MAT INFORMAL INDICATIONS OF APPROVAL OF LATEST PROPOSAL BY ALLIED CARRIERS, AND SO MAT REASONABLY CONFIDENT THAT THREAT TO CURTAIL LANDING RIGHTS WILL NOT BE FOLLOWED THROUGH. AS PRECAUTION AGAINST ATTACHMENT BY THY OF MAT AIRCRAFT LANDING IN ISTANBUL, HOWEVER, EACH MAT PILOT CARRIES CHECK FOR ACCRUED AMOUNT OF ROYALTY WITHHELD SINCE MARCH 1 TO HAND OVER IN CASE OF DIFFICULTIES.

3. COMMENT: CURRENT CONTRACT BECOMES INVALID IF THY OPERATES FLIGHTS BETWEEN TURKEY AND WEST BERLIN. ALLIED CARRIERS HAVE ARGUED THAT ROYALTY CLAUSE SHOULD ALSO BE HELD INOPERATIVE UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES BECAUSE PASSENGERS FOR THY SCHOENEFELD-ISTANBUL FLIGHTS ARE DRAWN EXCLUSIVELY FROM WEST BERLIN. ADOPTION OF THE FRG-THY ROYALTY PROVISIONS WOULD BE OF CONSIDERABLE BENEFIT TO ALLIED CHARTER LINES, EVEN THOUGH THEY STILL CARRY MUCH MORE THAN HALF OF TOTAL TURKISH WORKER TRAFFIC. (NUMBER OF TURKISH WORKERS FLYING THY VIA SCHOENEFELD DECREASED FROM DECEMBER 1973 PEAK OF 1,917 TO 1,271 IN MARCH 1974 AND THEN DROPPED IN APRIL BY HALF TO 636. TURKISH WORKERS FLYING FROM TEGEL DURING DECEMBER 1973 NUMBERED 4,802, AND MARCH 1974, 3,749. APRIL FIGURE NOT YET AVAILABLE).KLEIN

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